

Serial No.: 10/511,374
(International Application No. PCT/AU02/01642)
Applicant: Donald B. Webb
Atty. Ref.: 11134.0009.PCUS00

RESPONSE TO NON FINAL OFFICE ACTION

Amendments:

Claims 1-5 and 8 remain in this application. Claim 1 has been amended to correct a typographical error. No new matter has been added to this application by such amendment.

Restriction Requirement:

The Applicant acknowledges the Examiner's withdrawal of the restriction requirement.

Allowable Subject Matter:

The Applicant appreciates the Examiner's acknowledgement of the allowable subject matter of claims 1-5. While Applicant agrees that the cited prior art differs from the instant claimed invention, Applicant respectfully points out, however, that the Examiner's primary reason for indicating the allowable subject matter should not be interpreted as indicative of the scope of all of the claims. Instead, each claim should be interpreted pursuant to its specific language.

Claim Rejections:

The Examiner has rejected claim 8 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as anticipated by or in the alternative, under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as obvious over Webb (WO 98/43805). The Applicant respectfully requests the Examiner to reconsider.

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Claim 8 defines a "paper product resulting from the process of claim 1." Therefore, claim 8 covers a paper product made by mixing paper in particulate form with water, subjecting the mixture to pressure and depositing the mixture onto a first conveyor belt which is progressively formed into an upwardly open U-shape configuration, the mixture being then compressed by a second conveyor belt that is guided to progressively enter the first conveyor belt and progressively compact the mixture.

The Webb citation, however, does not disclose a paper product formed by compacting a mixture and depositing the mixture on a conveyor belt that progressively forms an upwardly open U-shape configuration and then progressively compressing the mixture using a second conveyor belt. Accordingly, Applicant submits that claim 8 is patentable over Webb and respectfully requests the Examiner to reconsider.

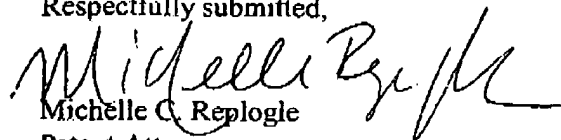
The undersigned representative requests any extension of time that may be deemed necessary to further the prosecution of this application.

The undersigned representative authorizes the Commissioner to charge any additional fees under 37 C.F.R. 1.16 or 1.17 that may be required, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 08-3038, referencing Order No. 11134.0009.PCUS00.

In order to facilitate the resolution of any issues or questions presented by this paper, the Examiner should directly contact the undersigned by phone to further the discussion.

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Respectfully submitted,



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Date: 2/20/09